

## AmeriCorps

The Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE) AmeriCorps Program, operated by Nebraska State Probation, enhances public safety and improves the lives of probationers in rural areas through a research based approach. Over five years, 73 percent of RISE clients served by AmeriCorps did not return to the probation system within a year of completion. This compares with 50 percent recidivism for a control group. Success is seen in data and lives that are changed. Max is one whose life has changed. He was frustrated and complained of not getting any response from area employers. RISE AmeriCorps member Kim Bovee provided consistent guidance and reassurance. With the tools and insights Kim provided, Max landed a job at a local construction company and within a week was promoted to Safety Supervisor on the job site. "Now my career is heading in a direction that I was trying to get all along", reports Max.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

Habitat for Humanity Omaha was established in 1984, building about one house in its first two years. By 2010, Habitat Omaha celebrated the completion of its 300th house, having built 27 homes in 2010. Habitat Omaha builds all of its homes to Energy Star standards. While working with Habitat Omaha, an AmeriCorps NCCC team assisted and led 75-100 volunteers on construction sites, removed 7,058 square feet of siding, framed a 2,000 square foot house, set 27 roof trusses, installed 40 hurricane clips, painted 22,000 square feet of foundations, and laid 18,000 square feet of shingles. The community benefited from an increasingly revitalized neighborhood where low-income families have access to affordable housing. The team gained skills in volunteer leadership, Energy Star standards, roofing, dry walling, siding, and insulation.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

Lincoln Public Schools AmeriCorps VISTA members support two key school district goals: to help all students reach their full academic potential and to strategically engage the public. Fourteen VISTAs and 75 Summer Associates have impacted: Title I, HS Graduation Initiative, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Early Childhood Infant Toddler Education, Youth Development Team (Title I dropout prevention, Title VII Indian Education, and Title X Homeless Education), and ELL (Title III Limited English Proficient) projects. The district-wide graduation rate increased from 80.74 percent for 2011 to 83.3 percent for 2012. The Northeast High School graduation rate increased 10.5 points to 82.7 percent for 2012, up from 72.2 percent for 2010. The graduation rate for every group of students increased: Native American from 25 percent to 66.67 percent, Hispanic from 47.8 percent to 82.61 percent, and Black from 68.4 percent to 86.96 percent during the two-year period a VISTA was assigned.

## Senior Corps

Responding to the low literacy rates reported by the Nebraska Department of Education in elementary school children, the Panhandle Foster Grandparent Program sponsored by the Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska went into action. Fifty-six Foster Grandparent volunteers are working in 26 elementary schools in 13 school districts. They served 310 students during the 2011-2012 school year in one-to-one educational supportive activities. The results: 83 percent of the students showed improved behavior in the classroom and 98 percent of the students served showed improved reading, writing, and math performances at the end of the school year.